

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 were pending. Claims 1, 4-11, 17, 18, and 20-36 were rejected. Claims 2, 3, 12-16, 19, 37, and 38 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 39-41 were allowed. By the above amendments, the Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 36 and amended claims 2-7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19, 29, 30, 37, and 38. Accordingly, claims 2-35 and 37-41 are pending. The Applicant hereby requests further consideration and re-examination in view of the amendment made above and remarks set forth below.

Claim 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 2 and 3 to overcome the objection. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are now allowable.

Claim 4 has been amended to overcome an informality objection and to change its dependency to claim 2, an allowable base claim. Accordingly, claim 4 is allowable at least because it depends upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 5-7 have been amended to change their dependency to claim 2, an allowable base claim. Accordingly, claims 5-7 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 8 depends upon an allowable base claim, claim 2, by way of an intervening claim. Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable at least because it depends upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 9 has bee amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 9-11 depend upon an allowable base claim, claim 2, by way of one or more intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 9-11 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 12 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 12 to overcome the objection. Accordingly, claim 12 is now allowable.

Claims 13 and 14 depend upon an allowable base claim, claim 12, by way of one or more intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 13 and 14 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 15 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 15 and 16 to overcome the objection. Accordingly, claims 15 and 16 are now allowable.

Claims 17 and 18 depend upon an allowable base claim, claim 2, by way of intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 17 and 18 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 19 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 19 to overcome the objection. Accordingly, claim 19 is now allowable.

Claims 20-28 depend upon an allowable base claim, claim 2, by way of one or more intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 20-28 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 29 and 30 have been amended to change their dependency to claim 2, an allowable base claim. Accordingly, claims 29 and 30 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 31-35 depend upon an allowable base claim, claim 2, by way of one or more intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 31-35 are allowable at least because they depend upon an allowable base claim.

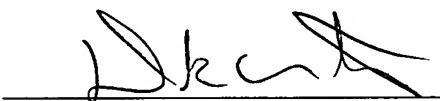
Claims 37 and 38 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 37 and 38 to overcome the objection. Accordingly, claims 37 and 38 are now allowable.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, the Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are now allowable. Allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. Should any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (408) 293-9000 so that any such issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: Sept. 13, 2005

  
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Derek J. Westberg (Reg. No. 40,872)